

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 030011
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /013 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030011

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: GHASSAN RIFAI AND OTHER PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

1. RIFAI HAD AN EXCELLENT MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEB 8, DURING WHICH HE TAPED THE REMARKS THAT WERE MADE. ATTENDING THIS SESSION WITH THE SECRETARY WAS A PROMINENT EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST, WHO FILMED HIS PORTION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY. THE FILM AND THE REMARKS WITH BOTH JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN EMBARGOED UNTIL THE MORNING OF FEB 15, CAIRO AND DAMASCUS TIME. THE TRANSCRIPTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE HERE TO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS UNDER THE SAME EMBARGO.

2. A PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN OF RIFAI AND THE SECRETARY, WHICH RIFAI VERY MUCH WISHES TO PRINT WHEN HE RUNS HIS STORY ON THE 15TH. WE WILL BE POUCHING TO YOU IN THE UNCLASSIFIED BAG THIS PHOTOGRAPH, WHICH SHOULD ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS SUNDAY EVENING, FEB 13. RIFAI WILL CONTACT YOU.
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3. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING HIS OWN, RIFAI HAD A MOST SATISFYING VISIT. HE SAID HIS EYES WERE OPENED

4. NEW SUBJECT: JOHN MACLEAN OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE WILL BE IN THE SECRETARY'S PRESS PARTY. HE ASKED WHETHER IT

WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO STAY IN SYRIA FOR A DAY OR SO AND TO
WRITE SOME PEOPLE-ORIENTED STORIES, IMPRESSIONS OF THE
ORDINARY SYRIAN CITIZEN ABOUT THE U.S. INITIATIVE, ETC.
HE IS UNINTERESTED IN STORY ABOUT JEWISH COMMUNITY.
HE DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT APPOINTMENTS WITH SYRIAN
OFFICIALS EXCEPT FOR THOSE, POSSIBLY IN THE INFORMATION
MINISTRY, WHO COULD ASSIST HIS OBJECTIVES I TOLD HIM
I THOUGHT THE SYRIANS WOULD BE MOST PLEASED WITH THIS
TYPE OF EFFORT, WHICH IS UNLIKE THE USUAL OBJECTIVES OF
JOURNALISTS IN DAMASCUS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: JOURNALISTS, MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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